

# SAN DIEGO DX CLUB BULLETIN



May 2005

## Dick Shanks W6BZE (SK)

By the time he received his ham radio operator's license at age 16, Richard Shanks was virtually up to his ears in tubes, transmitters and technical radio jargon. At 15, he had built a crystal set and a two-tube short-wave receiver. Six decades later, as passionate as ever about his hobby, he put the finishing touches on his last transmitter/amplifier, which he operated until last fall.

Consumed by ham radio for most of his life, Mr. Shanks verified 375 contacts with amateur operators in foreign countries, an accomplishment that earned him special recognition from the American Radio Relay League.

Mr. Shanks, the founder in 1945 of San Diego DX Club and the first person inducted into its Hall of Fame, died in his sleep April 26 at his home in La Mesa. He was 94.

At the end of World War II, Mr. Shanks' radio shack in his Kensington home became one of the most popular stops in his neighborhood. With the wartime ban on ham radio activity lifted, he opened the airwaves to San Diegans seeking to communicate with their loved ones overseas. A phone patch facilitated the process.

Mr. Shanks joined a friend, Bob Wright, in opening Shanks and Wright Electronics in 1945 on Fifth Avenue in San Diego. The business moved to Kettner Boulevard the following year, and Mr. Shanks eventually bought out his partner and relocated to Kearny Mesa. He retired in the mid-1990s.

"His big thing was contacting new countries on the radio," said his son, Richard G. Shanks. "He made as many contacts as he could, and was active in the DX club until the early 2000s." In the 1950s, operating a 900-watt station from his home, Mr. Shanks drew media attention for establishing contact with Iron Curtain countries. "The Russians are always in a hurry," he told *The San Diego Union*. "They won't ever tell you anything about themselves." Their reticence, he noted, might have stemmed from a young Soviet operator who had made critical comments regarding the Communist regime and was never heard from again.

Mr. Shanks, whose original call letters of 6BZE were changed to W6BZE in 1929 by the newly established Federal Radio Commission, joined the Quarter Century Wireless Association in 1947. Four years ago, he received the organization's 75th Anniversary Award.

Although he was a longtime member of the San Diego Rowing Club, where he enjoyed swimming and handball, his preoccupation for ham radio precluded any other hobbies. "You would never find him behind a lawn mower or pulling weeds," his son said.

Richard Barbee Shanks, a La Mesa resident since 1959, was born July 7, 1910, in Downing, Mo. He was 13 when he moved to San Diego with his widowed father and three siblings. His mother had died of a brain tumor in 1916.

While attending San Diego High School, he built his first radio shack in the back of his Dale Street home. "He and a friend walked to Dixie Lumber (the predecessor of Dixieline) at 30th and University to buy lumber for the shack," said his daughter, Joann Stanford. "It cost \$35 and the two of them hauled it home on a little red wagon."

Mr. Shanks received his radio license a month after his 16th birthday. One of his first jobs was in the radio department of Whitney's, a downtown San Diego department store where he met his future wife, Helen, who worked at the candy counter. Both attended San Diego State College. They were married in 1933.

During the Depression, Mr. Shanks helped meet expenses by working at a service station and as a salesman for Radio Specialties, a firm based in Los Angeles.

When he launched the San Diego DX Club several years later, he was joined by about 10 hobbyists. The club's first meetings were held in his home. Membership grew tenfold over the years, and in 1998 Mr. Shanks was named president emeritus.

Join us at

**The SIZZLER, Aero Drive & Murphy Canyon Rd**  
**May 25, 2005 - Dinner, 6:00 P.M. - Meeting, 7:00 P.M**



## 2004/05Officers

**President Emeritus:**  
Dick Shanks, W6BZE

**President:**

**Jim Price K6ZH**

(619) 286-3255

k6zh@arrl.net

**Vice President:**

**Terry Baxter , N6CW**

858-279-6629.

n6cw@aol.com

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

**Harry Hodges,**

**W6YOO**

(760) 743-4212

w6yoo@arrl.org

**Past President:**

**John Barcroft K6AM**

(858) 587-8061

k6am@arrl.net

**Board of Directors:**

**Paul Dorey WN6K**

(760) 726-5301

WN6K@cts.com

**Gayle Olson K6GO**

(858) 673-9201

k6go@arrl.net

**Bud Semon N7CW**

(858) 566-8267

n7cw@san.rr.com

**Ladder:**

**Bud Semon N7CW**

(858) 566-8267

n7cw@san.rr.com

**Editor / Webmaster**

**Tuck Miller, NZ6T**

(619) 434-4211

nz6t@arrl.org



# The Prez speaks!!!

.....One last time.



**Hi gang. I guess this will be my "swan song" as SD DX Club Prez - at least as far as this column is concerned. Needless to say I've been honored to serve this past year - what a great club and great bunch of people we have!**

**At the June meeting we will be presenting the following slate of officers for next year for a vote:**

**President - Terry Baxter, N6CW**

**Vice President - Paul Dorey, WN6K**

**Secretary/Treasurer - Harry Hodges, W6YOO**

**Directors - Gayle Olson, K6GO (continuing)**

**Wayne Zimmerman, NN6R (replacing N7CW)**

**Bruce Thompson, N7TY, ex-WB7RHT**

**(replacing WN6K who moves to VP)**

**Past President - Jim Price, K6ZH**

**The club should be in good hands! But note that any other nominations will be accepted at the May meeting.**

**DX is, contests are, C U in the pile-ups! Cheers / 73 - Jim, K6ZH**

## San Diego DX Club Policy

### on content of

### DX Bulletin and/or E-mail Reflector

The San Diego DX Club, a group of Amateur Radio operators, interested in the art of DXing, publish a monthly newsletter, and maintains an e-mail reflector where members and officers can post information of interest to other members.

Our policy is to print and/or post only information that is related to Amateur Radio, and not items of a political or religious nature, unless it has an impact on Amateur Radio, such as antenna ordinances, etc.

If a member wishes to have printed/posted any topic that is not Amateur Radio related, they can submit a copy to the club newsletter editor, webmaster, e-mail reflector moderator or any club officer, and the matter will be discussed and decided upon by the Board of Directors.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

April 30, 2005

Balance as of Mar 31, 2005: \$3,210.24

Income:

Regular Dues: 180.00  
TOTAL: 180.00

Expenses:

USPS (Stamps): 37.00

Speaker's Mug: 12.93

Checks Enclosed Fee: 3.00

TOTAL: 52.93

Balance as of Apr 30, 2005: \$3,337.31

Petty Cash on Hand: 20.00

Total Checking/Petty Cash: \$3,357.31

Program Minutes  
April 27, 2005



The San Diego DX Club held its regular monthly meeting on April 27, 2005, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Aero Drive and Murphy Canyon Road. The meeting was called to order by Past President John, K6AM at 7:05 p.m. There were 23 members and two guests present.

Our guests were:

John, KC6YDA and John, N2NC.

It was reported that SDDXC Founder, and President Emeritus Dick Shanks, W6BZE, had become a Silent Key. A Celebration of Life is to be scheduled.

John, K6AM presented the Top Ten for 12 and 17 meters with Jim, W6YA at the top with 309 and 323 DXCC entities respectively.

The DX Roundtable was interesting as usual with complaints of lousy propagation and frozen rotators, new additions to the Crest Radio Museum, mis-sent QSLs, rebuilding of a condo in ZHland, a new amp in the shack, operating in Montenegro, and a trip to Dlland by N6MUF.

The evening's program was presented by Bob Grimmick, N6OX, who was a member of the 3Y0 team's almost DX trip to Peter I Island. All of the planning, changes, anguish and frustrations and disappointment and a host of great photographs of southern Chile and Argentina brought the reality of putting such a DXpedition together. Maybe next year. Thanks Bob!

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Coming this month.....

.....At a DX Club near you!!

AH1A, XR0Y, VK0IR, FO0AAA, A52A:  
NOW COME SEE THE "REST OF THE STORY."

Pat, WA6MHZ, won a really cool video at Visalia, and thanks to him we'll all have a chance to see it. Bob Allphin, K4UEE, a key member of all of these major DXpeditions, has put together an interesting behind-the-scenes kind of video that shows some of the human elements of these particular operations.

If your DXpedition juices haven't been ignited for a while, this video should help!

## SAN DIEGO BPL UPDATE (taken from the CGC Communicator)

May 10, 2005 - According to a representative of San Diego Gas and Electric Company, SDG&E's plans for testing Broadband over Power Line ("BPL") technology on a portion of SDG&E's power grid are progressing smoothly.

At least 30-days notice of the actual testing will be provided to the public as required by Section 15.615 of the FCC Rules. The information that must be provided includes not only the zip codes of the test zones, but the frequencies to be used, the manufacturer and type of equipment to be used and the proposed or actual date of the operation/s.

The list of zip codes slated for testing is said to be nearing completion. SDG&E currently plans to release the entire zip list all at once when the necessary bits and pieces come together. So far, we have no hint as to which geographic areas will be tested.

It is possible that SDG&E will test only one BPL system at the outset and use only a small geographic area, but nothing is definite. SDG&E reemphasizes its willingness to work with all potentially affected parties.

## MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN PALCED ON INACTIVE STATUS FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES:

KG6ERY, K6KT, K6LL, KG6PDW, N6QEK,  
WB6QGN

**REMINDER!** If you change your address, both postal and email; call sign or license class please notify the Secretary: [w6yoo@cox.net](mailto:w6yoo@cox.net). The FCC should also be notified in case of address change.

**SDDCX club members, Terry, N6CW, and John, K6AM are part of a team that will be activating ZF1A in the Cayman Is. for the WPX CW contest on May 28-29. This will be the first major effort since the 100 foot Rohn SSV tower was replaced after blowing down in Hurricane Ivan. The new tower sports a brand new military grade log periodic courtesy of W6VNR/ZF2AH. Please keep an eye out for our guys and give 'em a point on each band.**

# SDDXC Top Ten!!

**John Barcroft K6AM**

**TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 AND 17 METERS**



## TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 12 METERS

5/05 5/04 CALL ZNS C-D CFM WKD CHG

|     |    |       |    |     |     |     |     |
|-----|----|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1.  | 1. | W6YA  | 40 | ?   | ?   | 309 | -   |
| 2.  | 2. | K6AM  |    | 297 | 300 | 304 | +1  |
| 3.  | 3. | N6ND  | 37 | 103 | 104 | 301 | +12 |
| 4.  | 4. | W6KUT | 40 | 236 | 236 | 277 | -   |
| 5.  | 5. | K6TQ  | 38 | 265 | 265 | 265 | -   |
| 6.  | 6. | N7CW  | 39 | 173 | 173 | 262 | +2  |
| 7.  | 7. | N6CW  | 39 | 168 | 168 | 260 | +5  |
| 8.  | 8. | W6SHY | 40 | 204 | 204 | 239 | -   |
| 9.  | -. | N6AW  | 40 | 207 | 209 | 209 | new |
| 10. | 9. | W6EUF | 37 | 183 | 187 | 214 | -   |

## TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 17 METERS

5/05 5/04 CALL ZNS C-D CFM WKD CHG

|     |    |       |    |     |     |     |        |
|-----|----|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1.  | 1. | W6YA  | 40 | ?   | ?   | 323 | -      |
| 2.  | 2. | K6AM  |    | 307 | 310 | 316 | +1     |
| 3.  | 3. | N6ND  | 40 | 108 | 108 | 308 | +10    |
| 4.  | 5. | N7CW  | 40 | 206 | 206 | 294 | +9     |
| 5.  | 4. | W6KUT | 40 | 255 | 255 | 285 | -      |
| 6.  | 6. | K6TQ  | 40 | 282 | 282 | 282 | -      |
| 7.  | 8  | N6CW  | 25 | 174 | 174 | 275 | +19    |
| 8.  | -. | N6AW  | 40 | 255 | 257 | 259 | new    |
| 9.  | 7. | W6SHY | 40 | 220 | 220 | 257 | -      |
| 10. | 9. | W6YOO |    | 33  | 247 | 250 | 250 +6 |

As the sunspots set in the west, these bands have slowed way down. However there continues to be a lot of jockeying for position as reports come in after a couple years of holding back. Looks like we have seen the last of the good years on 12 meters for a while. However, 17 is still a very viable band and should remain so for most of the lean sunspot years to come.

If your not playing the WARC bands, you're missing a chance to experience the thrill of working a new one several times every month. The little Cushcraft WARC dipole is all you need to get started. The newer Force 12 Antennas work on 12 and 17 with a couple db of gain as well.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 160 meters, RTTY and band-countries. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. My email address is k6am at arrl.net or bring 'em to the meeting.



# Visalia 2005



**2005 Visalia DX Convention Banquet**



**NF6V with VU4RBI**



**John in his glory.**

---

## Local VHF Frequencies For Dxers

| Frequency | Call | Mode    | Other Info                           |
|-----------|------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| 144.415   | QRZ? | Simplex | Voice announcing and chat frequency. |
| 144.950   | KM6K | Packet  | San Diego Central                    |
| 145.690   | K6KT | Packet  | North County inland                  |

The packet cluster nodes are privately operated.  
The Sysops have kindly invited the SDDXC members to use their equipment.



Tom McDuffie KM6K, Manager  
5375 Kearny Villa Road  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(619) 560-4900, 1-800-854-6046



San Diego Dx Club Bulletin  
Tuck Miller, NZ6T  
Editor  
3122 E. 2nd St  
National City, Ca 91950